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SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS  
EXPRESSH. 66,920  
S. 107,543

MAY 4 1964

## Time to Quit Hitting Ourselves On the Head

There is no useful purpose to be served in a continuing self-criticism by Americans over the Cuban fiasco. But it is important that all the facts be gathered and policy lines established that will prevent that kind of error from being repeated.

In hindsight, everyone can see how the errors could have been avoided. But hindsight is the worst kind of except as we can profit by the lessons.

The Congress must take useful steps to insure that the CIA serves a proper function—that is to gather and evaluate information. It seems evident now that the CIA sat as a policy-maker in the Cuban affair. It is even questionable that the CIA needs its supersecret status with no checks by the Congress. At least a congressional representative—perhaps a half-dozen demonstrably-capable men—should sit in with the CIA. And certainly the Department of State—probably the Secretary or a deputy—should also be there.

Most informed persons know that we “monitor” the Soviet bloc as closely as we can. We also know that they use their whole government apparatus for intelligence work. It is only the professional approach to a necessary job that we desire and it should ever be in the hands of the best people we can find.

Senator Fulbright probably gave the American people the best answer to the big question this week when he said that the White House, Defense Department, State Department and the CIA must share the responsibility for the Cuban misadventure.

Then he said he has “heard all I want to hear” about it. All that usefully remains is to insure that it won't happen again.